

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

URBAN DISTRICT OF SOOTHILL UPPER,

FOR THE YEAR 1909.

To the Sanitary Committee of the Soothill Upper Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting my FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT on the Health, Sanitation and progress of the District.

The area of the District is 1,897 acres, and the population at the last Census was 6,104, but now, estimated on the basis of the number of inhabited houses in the middle of the year, at 7,335.

Number of Inhabited Houses.			Population.		
1891	1901	1909	1891	1901	1909
<u>1233</u>	<u>1329</u>	<u>1686</u>	<u>5848</u>	<u>6104</u>	<u>7335</u>
Increase since last Census in the number of Inhabited Houses			...	...	357
Increase in the Population			...	...	1,231
Average to each House			...	...	4·35

The births for the year amounted to 142, 77 boys and 65 girls, giving a birth-rate of 19·35 per 1,000 against 25·6 for the preceding year, the average for the past ten years being 25·0. Five of the births were illegitimate against 6 last year.

The deaths for the year amounted to 89, 44 males and 45 females, but to these are to be added 3 males and 2 females,

which took place in institutions outside the area, viz:—2 in Batley Hospital, 2 in Dewsbury Workhouse, and 1 in Wakefield Clayton Hospital, so that the corrected deaths are 94, 47 males and 47 females, giving a death-rate of 12·8 per 1,000, against 13·0 last year, the average for the last ten years being 14·5.

AGES AT DEATH.

Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	22
1 year and under 5 years			...	...	6
5	„	15	„	..	4
15	„	25	„	...	5
25	„	65	„	...	35
65	„	upwards	..	...	22
					<hr/> 94

The above table shows that while 28 died under 5 years, 22 died under 1 year, which is equal to 155 per 1,000 of the children born, against 129 for last year, and an average of 136 for the past ten years. That while 9 died between 5 years and 25, 35 died between 25 and 65, and 17 ranged from 70 to 80 years, which was the top limit for last year.

CAUSES OF DEATH UNDER ONE YEAR.

Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	3
Whooping Cough		...	...	...	3
Premature Birth		...	...	...	10
Marasmus	...	...	...	...	2
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	1
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	1
Rickets	...	...	...	...	1
Gastro—Intestinal Catarrh		...	...	...	1
					<hr/> 22

The ages of these infants were as follows:—

Under 1 month	...	...	...	...	10
1 month and under 3 months			...	...	3
3	„	„	6	„	4
6	„	„	9	„	2
9	„	„	12	„	3
					<hr/> 22

Ten died within the month from debility or premature birth, 2 from wasting, and 6 from whooping cough and bronchitis, and of the 5 illegitimate there was no death.

CAUSES OF DEATH AT ALL AGES.

Whooping Cough	...	...	...	4
Diphtheria	...	...	...	1
Epidemic Influenza	...	...	...	2
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	1
Enteritis	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	1
Phthisis Pulmonalis	...	...	...	10
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	5
Cancer	...	...	...	10
Bronchitis	...	...	...	7
Pneumonia	...	...	...	6
Premature Birth	...	...	...	10
Heart Disease	...	...	...	12
Accidents	...	...	...	3
Suicides	...	...	...	1
Senile Decay	..	...	...	1
Brights Disease	...	...	...	2
Cerebral Hemorrhage	...	...	...	8
Wasting Disease	...	...	...	2
All other Causes	...	...	...	6

94

The deaths from zymotic diseases are included under whooping cough, diphtheria, epidemic influenza, diarrhoea, enteritis, puerperal fever and erysipelas. They are 11 in all, and are equal to a rate of 1·5 per 1,000, against 1·9 last year, and an average of 1·9 for the past ten years. Phthisis death rate 1·3 against 0·8, 1·2 and 1·0 for the three preceding years. Respiratory diseases 1·7 against 2·7, 1·2 and 1·5 in the three preceding years.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1909.

1909.	England and Wales.	Great towns (76).	Smaller towns. (143).	England and Wales less the 219 towns.	Soothill Upper.
Birth-rate ...	25·6	25·7	24·8	25·6	19·35
Death-rate ...	14·5	14·7	13·9	14·5	12·8
Zymotic death- rate ...	1·2	1·42	1·08	0·80	1·5
Infantile mor- tality(per1000 births) ...	109	118	111	98	155

LOCALITIES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DISTRICT.				Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Erysipelas.	Diphtheria.	Puerperal.	Total.
Brewery Road ...	...	.		1				1	2
Bromley Street ...	...	...		1		2			3
Chidswell ..	...	..		1		1			2
Calms Wood ...	...	...		4		1		1	6
Clutton Street ...	...	...					1		1
Carr Street ...	...	...				1			1
Gregory Street ...	...	...					2		2
High Street ...	...	...			2		1		3
Hollinroyd Road ...	...	...				1			1
Leeds Road ...	...	...		1	1				2
Lady Ann Road ...	...	...		1			1		2
Newgate Street ...	...	...		1					1
Soothill Lane ...	...	...		4		1	1		6
School Street ...	...	...				1			1
Shaw Cross ...	...	...		1					1
Total ...	...	...		15	3	8	6	2	34

Infectious diseases were reported in the following months :—

1909.				Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Erysipelas.	Diphtheria.	Puerperal.	Total.
January ..	...	...	...	2		2			4
February	...	...	...			
March ...	...	...	...	1					1
April ...	...	...	...				1		1
May ...	...	...	...			1	1		2
June ...	...	...	...	1		1			2
July ...	...	...	...	2					2
August ...	...	...	...	4					4
September	...	...	...		1	2		2	5
October...	...	...	...		1				1
November	...	...	...	2	1	1	1		5
December	...	...	...	3		1	3		7
Total ...				15	3	8	6	2	34

During the year 34 cases of infectious diseases have been reported, against 41, 33, 30 and 117 in the four preceding years. There was not an epidemic at any time, but were mostly isolated cases spread over the district, the preponderance being in the latter half of the year. The following gives the number reported and the deaths :—

Scarlet Fever	15 cases	with 0 death.
Enteric Fever	3 „	„ 0 „
Erysipelas	7 „	„ 1 „
Diphtheria	6 „	„ 1 „
Puerperal	2 „	„ 1 „
Whooping Cough	not reported	„ 4 „
Epidemic Influenza	„	„ 2 „
Diarrhoea	„	„ 1 „

There was no case of small pox during the year, but as I said last year that there is very little vaccination being done, the field is gradually ripening for an outbreak of small pox.

Scarlet fever was scattered all over the district, and in seven of the months of the year.

Diarrhœa and enteric were again low, and from the latter there was not a death, but there was one in the former, that of a baby one month old.

Diphtheria was scattered over the district, in the months of April and May, November and December, with one death.

Whooping Cough was prevalent in August, September and October, and of the four deaths, three were in infants under one year.

Measles was not prevalent at any time of the year, no school was closed, and no deaths.

Influenza was prevalent in February and March, and although the type was not severe, there were two deaths.

Twelve nuisances have been abated during the year and one in hand at the close. The draining of Heybeck is still required. Five private drains have been connected to the sewers. The waste of water has been prevented by the service of 14 notices on the owners. The ashpits have been well attended to, being emptied nearly once a month; and notices have been posted on all the ashpit doors prohibiting the emptying of slops into the ashpits, converting them into cesspools, a danger to the neighbours and to the night soil men.

In June last, in answer to complaints, the Sanitary Inspector and I visited the coke ovens in Soothill Wood End, where coke is made, also by-products—benzol, ammonia and tar. We went above the works with the wind and were unable to find any disagreeable or unhealthy smell arising therefrom. The manager took us round the works and showed us that the process is continuous, that the same thing happens every hour, night and day, week-day and Sunday.

But we did find a disagreeable smell arising from a burning pit hill, lying between Primrose Hill and Soothill Lane. This hill has been burning for over 12 months and every effort is being

made to extinguish it by isolation. The smell depends on the direction of the wind and the material that is being consumed at the time. The council with the officials afterwards made an inspection and came to the same conclusion.

Factory and Workshop Act.

There are 29 factories and 39 workshops in the district. These have been found in a sanitary condition and ample conveniences have been provided in the proportion of 1 to 25. Where males and females are employed privacy is maintained by isolation or by approach from opposite sides. Notice was served in one case where insufficient, and this was remedied by ample provision. In the work-shops is included one bakehouse.

There are no domestic workshops and no home work is given out.

Twenty-five new houses have been built during the year. They are through houses with a scullery, w.c. and bath. Thirty-six water closets have been constructed, and in no case has a privy been sanctioned. There is no overcrowding and no houses unfit for human habitation.

The Joint Hospital has been made use of in eight cases of scarlet fever and one of enteric. This is an improvement on last year. Only scarlet fever, diphtheria and enteric are yet admitted.

The water supply has been good and continuous. No cases of lead poisoning have been brought under my notice, and a sample formerly taken showed that the water was not plumbo-solvent.

The slaughter-houses have been fairly kept and are well looked after as to cleanliness and white-washing.

Dairies, Milkshops, Cowsheds.

There are no dairies in this district, nor milkshops. The milk is produced at the farms, carted away and distributed to the surrounding towns and villages.

There are 60 cowsheds in the district, some of them only for house use. They are fairly kept as to cleanliness and white-washing, and ventilation is better attended to than formerly.

Phthisis death-rate has been rather higher this year as well as the other tubercular diseases. Still there is hope for the future when the housing is better and when the knowledge of its infective nature is better known. Every care is taken by disinfecting the house after death, and the clothes when they will part with them.

Infantile Mortality.

I have written on this subject many times, and when we see so many babies dying from a few minutes to a few hours after birth, we must look to the parents rather than to the nurse for an improvement. And when we have a diminishing birth-rate with so many premature babies, I can see nothing but a crumbling away of our country.

To sum up, birth-rate 19·35, death-rate 12·8, zymotic death-rate 1·5, and infantile mortality 155.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT BEATTIE, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Dewsbury,

19th March, 1910.

TABLE 1.
SOOTHILL UPPER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.
FOR THE WHOLE DISTRICT.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		Deaths under One Year of Age.		Deaths at all Ages. Total.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*
1899	6408	158	24.6	16	101	80	12.4
1900	6489	166	25.8	18	108	95	14.7
1901	6103	159	26.0	25	157	98	16.0
1902	6336	166	26.2	23	137	88	13.8
1903	6542	170	25.9	19	112	97	14.8
1904	6647	167	25.1	31	185	121	18.2
1905	6766	151	22.3	30	199	102	15.0
1906	6976	175	25.0	26	148	110	15.7
1907	7235	170	23.5	15	88	82	11.3
1908	7330	188	25.6	22	129	96	13.0
Averages for years 1899-1908.	6683	167	25.0	22	136	97	14.5
1909	7335	142	19.3	22	155	94	12.8

*Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population. Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)—1897.
 Total population at all ages ... 6,104 }
 Number of inhabited houses ... 1,329 } At Census of 1901.
 Average number of persons per house ... 4.385 }

TABLE 2.
SOOTHILL UPPER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 Year.
1899	...	158	80	16
1900	...	166	95	18
1901	...	159	98	25
1902	...	166	88	23
1903	...	170	97	19
1904	...	167	121	31
1905	...	151	102	30
1906	...	175	110	26
1907	...	170	82	15
1908	...	188	96	22
Averages of Years 1899 to 1908	6683	167	97	22
1909	...	142	94	22

TABLE 3.
SOOTHILL UPPER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the Year 1909.

CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.									Total cases removed to Hospital.
NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					65 and upwards.		
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.			
Small-pox ...									
Cholera ...									
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	6		1	3	1	1	3		
Erysipelas ...	8				2	3			
Scarlet Fever...	15	1	3	8	3				
Typhus Fever...									
Enteric Fever...	3				1	2			
Relapsing Fever									
Continued Fever									
Puerperal Fever	2					2			
Plague ...									
Totals ...	34	1	4	11	7	8	3		

Isolation Hospital—Dewsbury Conjoint Hospital.

Total available Beds, 72. Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 3.

TABLE 4.

Soothill Upper Urban District Council.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1909.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							Total Deaths in Public Institutions in District.
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	
Small-pox								
Measles... ..								
Scarlet Fever								
Whooping-cough	4	3	1					
Diphtheria and Memb. Croup	1			1				
Croup								
Epidemic Influenza	2		1				1	
Cholera								
Plague								
Diarrhœa	1	1						
Enteritis	1	1						
Gastritis								
Puerperal Fever	1					1		
Erysipelas	1						1	
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	10				4	6		
Other tuberculous diseases	5	1	1	2		1		
Cancer, malignant disease	10					7	3	
Bronchitis	7	3				1	3	
Pneumonia	6		2			2	2	
Pleurisy								
Other diseases of Respiratory Organs								
Venereal diseases								
Premature Birth	10	10						
Heart Diseases	12					8	4	
Accidents	3					3		
Suicides	1					1		
Senile Decay	1						1	
Bright's Disease	2					1	1	
Cerebral Hemorrhage	8					3	5	
Wasting Disease	2	2						
All other Causes	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	
All causes	94	22	6	4	5	35	22	

TABLE 5.

SOOTHILL UPPER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.
INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1909.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
Whooping Cough ...												2			1		3
Diarrhoea, all forms						1											1
Gastritis, Gastro- intestinal Catarrh										1							1
Premature Birth ...	8	2			10												10
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus ...						1		1									2
Tuberculous Peri- tonitis ...															1		1
Rickets ...							1	1	1						1		3
Bronchitis ...																	
	8	2			10	2	1	2	1	1	1	2			3		22

Population (estimated to middle of 1909) 7,335.

Births in the year { Legitimate 137. Deaths in the year of { Legitimate infants, 22.
 { Illegitimate 5. { Illegitimate infants, 0.
 Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 94.

TABLE 6.
SOOTHILL UPPER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Summary of Work in the Sanitary Department for
the Year ended December 31st, 1909.

Notices served for Abatement of Nuisances ...	nil.
Prosecutions	nil.
Nuisances abated	12
Nuisances in hand... ..	1
Length of Sewers laid	nil.
Private Drains connected to Sewers	5
New Houses erected	25
New Water Closets	36
New Privies	nil.
New Ashpits	11
Privies converted into W.C.'s	6
Privies reconstructed	nil.
Ashpits reconstructed	nil.
Defects in Water Pipes and Fittings and Notices served	14
Loads of Refuse removed from Ashpits ...	3135
Average No. of times each Ashpit emptied ...	10·86

JNO. BLACKBURN,

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

Shaw Cross,

Nr. Dewsbury,

24th March, 1910.

